

All the standard reference works give the foodplant as *Daldinia concentrica* (Bolt.: Fr.) Ces. & de Not. However, Jordan (1995. *The encyclopedia of fungi of Britain and Europe*: 75) gives two species of *Daldinia*, which are very well illustrated by colour plates. That on burnt gorse and, occasionally, burnt oak (no mention is made of birch) is *Daldinia vernicosa* (Schw.) Ces. & de Not. *Daldinia concentrica* is found on unburnt hosts such as beech, ash and also other wood. Until fairly recently *Daldinia vernicosa* was considered to be a small form of *concentrica*. To the best of my knowledge, the larva of *A. bistriatella neophanes* has only been found feeding on *Daldinia* on burnt hosts.

I am grateful to Mr M. Jordan for information about the two species.
– R.J. HECKFORD, 67 Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4AW.

***Tachystola acroxantha* (Meyr.) (Lep.: Oecophoridae) – a first record for North Hampshire**

On the 24 September 1997 we examined my moth trap in Fleet (OS grid reference SU 797539) and found a micro which neither of us recognised. The specimen was taken by RE who later identified it as *Tachystola acroxantha*. Subsequent moths were trapped on a further five occasions, with the last specimen being taken on 18 October 1997. All specimens were trapped in early evening, before 9 pm. Barry Goater has confirmed this as the first record for North Hampshire, VC12.

The record is also interesting due to the lateness of the flight period. Most authors (eg Allen, 1979. *Proc. Brit. Ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.* **12**: 58), discuss specimens taken in late July/early August. Discussion with Roy McCormick indicate that *T. acroxantha* is well established in Devon at Dawlish and Teignmouth, appearing in two overlapping broods from June to September.

The foodplant is generally given to be *Eucalyptus*, with a second preference for *Berberis* sp (Allen, 1979). Both these plants are found locally.– ROB EDMUNDS, 32 Woodcote Green, Calthorpe Park, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8EY and RON PARFITT, 29 Manor Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7EX.

A further note on the occurrence of *Dorycera graminum* (Fabr.) (Dip.: Otitidae) in Kent

Earlier (1994. *Ent. Rec.* **106**: 138) I referred to the abundance of this species on the Hoo peninsula in north Kent. On 7 July 1996 several further specimens were obtained from the largely derelict land which has been designated Church Marshes Country Park at Milton, near Sittingbourne (grid reference TQ 9165). One was swept from a leaf of a young sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* whilst the remainder were taken from the flowers of one of the larger mayweeds. The first occurrence is of interest in that I have frequently taken the related *Seioptera vibrans* (L.) on sycamore and sallow leaves where I presume it feeds either on the honeydew deposited by aphids or on the microfungi which later develop.

J.F. Stephens (1841. *Entomologist* **1**: 199-202) recorded “*Doryphora graminum*” during a month’s collecting within a four mile radius of Harrietsham (TQ 85) between 8 June and 3 July 1840 and this species I take to be *Dorycera graminum*.

A recent perusal of the records housed in Maidstone Museums and Art Galleries revealed several other records. On 19 June 1896 the Rev. E.E. Green took it at Bearsted (TQ 75). During the first few years of the twentieth century J.W. Yerbury encountered it at Dartford (TQ 57). Specimens exist with the dates 8 June 1909, 13 June 1909 and 14 June 1912. In July 1932 H. St. K. Donisthorpe recorded it from Port Victoria on the Isle of Grain (TQ 87). In the 1940s G. Waller and H.W. Andrews took specimens at Ashford (TR 04) and Eltham (TQ 47) respectively; Waller's being on 30 June 1941 and 1 June 1942 whilst Andrews' were on 6 and 11 June 1946. Finally on 4 June 1956 J.C. Felton recorded it from Sittingbourne (TQ 96).

Donisthorpe's record is particularly interesting since it is from the Grain area where the fly has recently been found in abundance. Unfortunately nothing can be ascertained of the habitats for the historical records. All that I can say from personal experience is that *Dorycera graminum* has recently been found in dry, coastal grassland in north Kent.— LAURENCE CLEMONS, 14 St John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: It may be of interest that I can add another recent Kent example of *Dorycera graminum*, from Northfleet, grid reference TQ 6173, one female on 5 July 1995, taken by myself as well as three Essex specimens, just across the River Thames to the North at Dolphin Quarry, Purfleet, TQ 5678, one female on 7 May 1996 taken by myself and at West Tilbury, TQ 6777, a pair taken by Roger Payne on 31 May 1996. The latter three are the only known Essex records (Del Smith *Pers. comm.*).— COLIN W. PLANT.

Melanism in some Ennominae (Lep.: Geometridae) in N.E. Scotland

The so-called industrial melanics of many species of Ennominae were familiar to me during an upbringing in the Manchester area in the 1950s and 1960s. But to encounter some of these forms in thoroughly rural, lichen-encrusted north-east Scotland was completely unexpected.

In Banffshire, the Scalloped Hazel *Odontopera bidentata* Cl. is often variegated with blackish-brown, as described and illustrated by Skinner (1984). In a few specimens the dark suffusion is quite heavy, but these could not really be confused with the truly melanic ab. *nigra* Prout. Two males which were identical to the latter form, having forewings, hindwings and abdomen blackish brown, but a pale (almost buff) head and thorax, were caught in my garden on 3.vi.93 and 28.v.97.

The Pale Brindled Beauty *Apocheima pilosaria* D.&S. is reasonably common here. Most of the males are paler than those seen in the south of England, often with a greyish-white ground colour sharply marked with dark grey. Surprisingly, a melanic male agreeing in all respects with f. *monacharia* Staud. was attracted to an outside light on the wall of my house on 17.ii.93.

The Dotted Border *Agriopsis marginaria* Fabr. is also common, inhabiting open moorland as well as woodland. At Ordiquhill, the males are variable, some being almost as dark as ab. *fusca* Mosley, which was easily the dominant form in the Manchester area during my time there. However, the gene responsible here may be